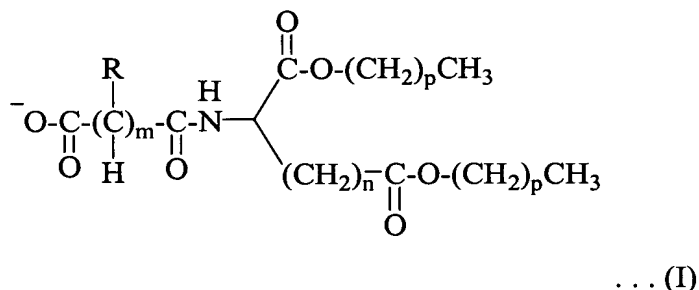


IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An zwitterionic lipid compound represented by formula (I) given below:



where ~~m and n are independently integers of 1 to 4~~, m is an integer of 3 or 4, n is an integer of 1 to 4, p is an integer of 7 to 21, and R bonded to the fourth carbon atom as counted from the terminal carboxyl carbon atom is NH_3^+ and the other R is H.

Claim 2 (Original): A surface modifying method, comprising
allowing the zwitterionic lipid compound defined in claim 1 to be oriented at the interface at which a hydrophobic substance is brought into contact with an aqueous medium so as to modify the surface of the hydrophobic substance into a hydrophilic surface.

Claim 3 (Original): A carrier of a water-soluble drug, comprising a vesicle formed by allowing the zwitterionic lipid compound defined in claim 1 to be dispersed in an aqueous medium together with the water-soluble drug.

Claim 4 (Original): A carrier of a water-soluble drug, comprising a membrane of a lipid containing 40 to 100 mol% of the zwitterionic lipid compound defined in claim 1, a

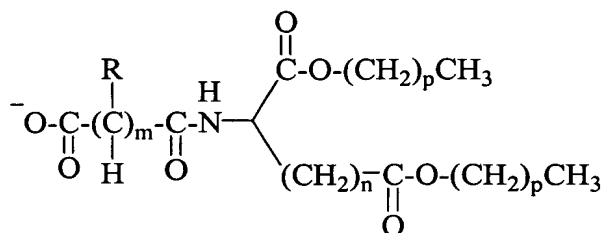
water-soluble drug being included in the inner aqueous phase and a vesicle having a particle diameter of 100 to 300 nm being dispersed in an aqueous medium.

Claim 5 (Original): The carrier according to claim 4, wherein hemoglobin is included in the inner aqueous phase at a concentration of 10 to 40 g/dL.

DISCUSSION OF THE AMENDMENT

Claims 1-5 are pending. Claim 1 is amended. Amended Claim 1 reads as follows:

A zwitterionic lipid compound represented by formula (I) given below:



where m is an integer of 3 or 4, n is an integer of 1 to 4, p is an integer of 7 to 21, and R bonded to the fourth carbon atom as counted from the terminal carboxyl carbon atom is NH^+ and the other R is H.

Originally, m is defined as being an integer of 1 to 4. However, m must be at least 3, because NH^+ is bonded to the fourth carbon atom as counted from the terminal carboxyl carbon atom.